

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 DHA-02 EB-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIE-00 INRE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 /065 W
-----171955Z 045774 /63

O 171910Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4322

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN SALVADOR 2297

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, EFIN, ES
SUBJECT: RELATIONS WITH THE GOES

REFS: (A) STATE 106224; (B) STATE 107684

SUMMARY. THREAT OS US VETO ON IDB LOAN TO EL SALVADOR HAS
APPARENTLY HAD SERIOUS IMPACT ON GOES, AND MAY SIGNAL
LONG-SOUGHT TURNAROUND ON RICHARDSON CASE AND OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS
MATTERS.

1. I RECEIVED A VISIT IN THE EMBASSY FROM UNDERSECRETARY
OF FOREIGN RELATIONS, RICARDO CASTANEDA CORNEJO, ON FRIDAY
MORNING, MAY 13. HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY CHIEF OF PROTOCOL,
RICARDO MACHON DIAZ, AND HAD TWO PURPOSES IN CALLING ON ME.
FIRST, TO INFORM ME OF HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO THE US.
SECOND, TO INFORM ME OF RECOMMENDATIONS BEING MADE BY
AMBASSADOR BERTRAND GALINDO TO PRESIDENT MOLINA AND PRESIDENT-
ELECT ROMERO REGARDING FUTURE GOES RELATIONS WITH THE US.

2. THE UNDERSECRETARY STATED THAT HIS FATHER WAS SUFFERING
FROM A CARDIAC CONDITION WHICH REQUIRED TRAVEL TO THE US
FOR PROPER MEDICAL ATTENTION, AND THAT HE WAS TAKING HIM
TO JOHNS HOPKINS MEDICAL CENTER IN BALTIMORE ON THE
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FOLLOWING DAY. HE STATED THAT HE HAD ASKED PRESIDENT
MOLINA FOR A FIFTEEN-DAY LEAVE OF ABSENCE, AND THAT DURING
HIS ABSENCE THE PRESIDENT WOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THE FOREIGN
MINISTRY.

3. CASTANEDA SAID THAT THE REAL PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT, HOWEVER,
WAS TO HAVE ME LISTEN TO A CONFIDENTIAL TAPED REPORT WHICH

HAD BEEN RECEIVED FROM AMBASSADOR BERTRAND GALINDO THE PREVIOUS DAY. THE FIRST HALF OF THE TAPE CONSISTED OF BERTRAND GALINDO'S REPORT OF MEETINGS OF MAY 5 AND 9 WITH ARA OFFICIALS, AND WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS DESCRIBED IN REFTELS A AND B. (FYI. BERTRAND GALINDO DID NOT RPT NOT MENTION PROTESTATIONS DESCRIBED PARA 8, REFTEL A.)

4. AMBASSADOR BERTRAND GALINDO IN HIS TAPE THEN SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVES TO FINANCING OF SAN LARENZO DAM THROUGH IDB, INCLUDING SEEKING FUNDS FROM EUROPEAN, ASIAN OR MIDDLE EASTERN SOURCES. HE RECOMMENDED, HOWEVER, THAT EL SALVADOR ITSELF ASK FOR A POSTPONEMENT OF CONSIDERATION OF THE LOAN FOR AT LEAST A COUPLE OF MONTHS, AND IN THAT INTERVAL SEEK AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION TO THE RICHARDSON CASE AND A GENERAL IMPROVEMENT IN THE CONDITION OF ITS CITIZENS' HUMAN RIGHTS.

5. UNDERSECRETARY CASTANEDA TOLD ME THAT AT A MEETING AT CASA PRESIDENCIAL THE PREVIOUS DAY, THE BERTRAND TAPE WAS HEARD BY PRESIDENT MOLINA, PRESIDENT-ELECT ROMERO AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE CASTILLO YANEZ, AND THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME THE SERIOUSNESS WITH WHICH THE USG VIEWED THE RICHARDSON MATTER AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS GENERALLY APPEARED TO HAVE A SOBERING IMPACT ON MOLINA AND ROMERO. HE ADDED THAT ROMERO, WHO HE HAD ALWAYS CONSIDERED MUCH MORE A HARDLINER THAN MOLINA ("CON MAS MENTE MILITAR"), SEEMED TO UNDERGO A COMPLETE REVERSAL OF HIS PREVIOUS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS DURING HIS REMARKS AFTER HEARING THE BERTRAND RENORT. CASTANEDA SAID THAT HE EXPECTED THE GOES TO TAKE A MUCH MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FUTURE.

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6. COMMENT. THE NEWS THAT THE USG WAS FIRMLY RESOLVED TO VOTE AGAINST THE SAN LORENZO PROJECT LOAN APPEARS TO HAVE HAD A DEVASTATING IMPACT ON THE GOES, AND WHILE NOT WANTING TO SOUND OVERLY OPTIMISTIC WITHOUT SEEING CONCRETE EVIDENCE, I BELIEVE THIS SIGNALS A NEW GOES ATTITUDE ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND IS PROBABLY THE BEGINNING OF A SATISFACTORY DENOUEMENT OF THE RICHARDSON CASE IN PARTICULAR, AND THE TREATMENT OF AMCITS GENERALLY. THE PLANNED CALLS NEXT WEEK ON MOLINA AND ROMERO BY MATTHEWS AND ME MAY BE DECISIVE.

LOZANO

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Message Attributes

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